

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please remove the paragraph on lines 18-24 of page 2 and replace it with the following paragraph:

At present, there is no satisfactory method of determining a transparent route of the above kind. One method was proposed to the IETF in Generalized MPLS – Signaling Function Description, chapters 3.4 and 3.5, Expiration date: November 2001, Network Working Group, Internet Draft, URL = <http://search.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-ietf-mpls-generalized-signaling-07.txt>.

Please add the following line immediately above the current paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1, with “The invention relates to...”

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above the current paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, with “The invention relates to...”

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above line 27 of page 3:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following line immediately above line 36 of page 5:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following line immediately above line 27 of page 6:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 31 of page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The output termination port $[[Om]]$ OTP_m is adapted to originate an electrical or optical signal towards a peer switching unit, such as a Gigabit Ethernet signal, and to encode outgoing data units in a format suitable for their transmission towards the peer switching unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 32 of page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Upon completion of period t , t being an index ranging ~~from 0~~ from 0 onwards, the measurement means MEAS1 to MEASM determine the draining status of all the egress queues, thereby determining $DS_Eqm_CoSc_t$. During the same period, the bandwidth request means REQ1 to REQN measure the incoming traffic at every ingress queue, thereby determining $BWNnmc_t$.